

Patent
Attorney Docket No.: 50-0061

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new paragraph directly after the title:

This is a continuation of PCT Application No. PCT/US01/26379 filed on August 24, 2001 and a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 10/081,571 filed on February 22, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,769,465 issued August 3, 2004.

Please amend paragraph 29 as follows:

Fig. 13 illustrates graphically the relationship among contact area, contact pressure and vertical load for a tire in accordance with the invention; [[and]]

Please amend paragraphs 30 as follows:

Fig. 14 illustrates graphically the relationship among contact pressure, vertical stiffness, and counterdeflection stiffness for a tire in accordance with the invention[[.]] ;

Please insert the following two new paragraphs directly after paragraph 30:

Fig. 15 is a perspective view of a portion of an exemplary embodiment of a tire in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 16 is a perspective view of a portion of a web spoke having an enlarged end portion for fitting into an engaging slot in a wheel.

Please amend paragraph 39 as follows:

The tire 100 shown in Fig. 1 has a ground contacting tread portion 105, a reinforced annular band 110 disposed radially inward of the tread portion, a plurality of web spokes 150 extending transversely across and radially inward from the annular band, and a mounting band 160 at the radially inner end of the web spokes. The mounting band 160 anchors the tire 100 to a wheel 10 or hub. As used herein "extending transversely" means that the web spokes 150 may be axially aligned, or may be oblique to the tire axis. Further, "extending radially inward" means that the web spokes 150 may lie in a plane radial to the tire axis or may be oblique to the radial plane. Fig. 15 is a perspective view of a portion of an exemplary embodiment of a tire in

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accordance with the present invention showing the web spokes 150 extending substantially transversely across and radially inward from the reinforced annular band 110. In addition, as explained below, a second plurality of web spokes may extend in the equatorial plane.

Please amend paragraph 71 as follows:

Alternatively, depending on the construction materials and process for the annular band 110 and hub or wheel 10, a separate mounting band 160 or interface band may be eliminated and the web spokes molded or formed to directly adhere to the annular band and wheel. For example, if either of the annular band or the wheel or hub is formed with the same or compatible materials, the tire could be manufactured with one step forming or molding the web spokes integrally with the annular band or wheel, in which case, the mounting band 160 and/or interface band 170 are integrally formed as part of the wheel or annular band. Further, the web spokes 150 could be mechanically attached to the wheel, for example, by providing an enlarged portion 151 on the inner end of each web spoke that engages a slot 152 in the wheel 10 as shown in Fig. 16.